

Appendix 1 - Landscape Character Types (LCT)

The EIA has identified 18 LCTs which are relevant to this application and the impact of the development on each LCT has been assessed. In order to assess the impact, the sensitivity of the LCT to the development has been classed as either low, medium or high. The level of sensitivity has then contributed to the assessment of the magnitude of change on each LCT before concluding as to whether there has been a major, medium, minor or negligible adverse impact on the landscape. The following is a summary of the impacts on the relevant LCTs:

a) 'Rugged Moorland Hills' LCT

The wind farm will be visible over much of the area of this LCT which is located within the Kilpatrick Hills and which is considered to have a high sensitivity to the development. It will be seen as a new man made element on the open hills and due to the scale of the structures, there will be a high magnitude of change to this area. Due to the location of the wind farm within the Kilpatrick Hills, the ES states that there will be a major impact on specific areas within the Kilpatrick Hills although the impact on this LCT as a whole is assessed as minor.

It is considered that due to the location of the wind farm within the Kilpatrick Hills and the major impact that it will have on areas within the Kilpatrick Hills, the overall impact on this LCT will be major. However other areas of this LCT such as the Clyde Muirshiel Hills and Campsie Fells are further from the site and the impact on these areas of this LCT will be minor.

b) 'Rolling Farmland & Estates' LCT

This occurs over the lowland south of Loch Lomond around Gartocharn and Drymen and has a high sensitivity to the development. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across much of this LCT. Where the wind farm is not screened, it will be seen on the hills near the LCT, forming a potentially prominent element in the wider landscape that forms the backdrop to this LCT. The ES concludes that there will be a medium magnitude of change and that it may result in a moderate adverse impact on the landscape.

It is considered that from the areas within this LCT where the wind farm will be visible, it is likely to have a moderate magnitude of change and that it may result in an overall moderate adverse impact on the landscape and this LCT.

c) 'Lowland Hill Fringes' LCT

This occurs in several locations around the hill ranges that border the Forth Valley and the development will be visible from the majority of Cameron Muir and Stockiemuir but limited visibility elsewhere. This LCT will medium sensitivity to the development. Although visible, it will be set back from the fringes at these viewpoints and it is likely that the transitional character of

these areas will remain unaffected. There is a low magnitude of change predicted at this LCT and only minor adverse impacts are expected.

It is considered that due to the relationship between the wind farm and this LCT, it is likely that only minor adverse impacts on this LCT should be expected.

d) 'River Valley Farmland with Estates' LCT

Found along the Endrick valley between Croftamie and Balmaha and also along the south western shores of Loch Lomond around Arden and Rosdhu. This LCT will have a high sensitivity to the development. The wind farm will be seen as an element on the horizon that forms part of the backdrop to this LCT and will have a minor adverse impact on the LCT.

It is considered that due to the relationship between the wind farm and this LCT, it is likely that only minor adverse impacts on this LCT should be expected.

e) 'Loch Shore Fringes and Loch Lomond Islands' LCT

The shore fringes occur all along the edge of Loch Lomond, particularly in locations along the east side and at the mouth of Ettrick Water. Islands, such as Inchmurrin are located within Loch Lomond. Both of these LCTs is considered to have a high sensitivity to the development. The development will be intervisible over many areas of these LCTs and will be seen as a feature on the hills that make up the horizon when looking south across Loch Lomond. The ES assesses that there will be a low magnitude of change and only minor adverse affects.

Due to the impact of the proposal on the Kilpatrick Hills which is viewed as the southern boundary of Loch Lomond, it is considered that the presence of the turbines will exert a greater and less acceptable magnitude of change on this LCT than identified in the ES. The visual impact of the wind farm is likely to have a significant adverse impact on these LCTs. This is a view which is supported by both SNH and LTNP.

f) 'Moorland' LCT

This occurs in several locations and is considered to have a medium sensitivity to the development. Visibility will only be high in open areas. Many of these areas are at greater distances to the site and although visible, will be seen as development on the Kilpatrick Hills and result in a low magnitude of change, with only minor adverse impacts.

Overall, it is considered that due to the distance and relationship with the proposed wind farm site, there will only be minor adverse impacts on this LCT.

g) 'Raised Beach' LCT

Although the wind farm will be seen on the horizon across the Clyde, above Dumbarton, it will be seen with developed areas in much of the foreground. This LCT has a low sensitivity to the development. The ES predicts a low magnitude of change and a negligible adverse impact.

Overall, it is considered that due to the distance and relationship with the proposed wind farm site, there will only be negligible adverse impacts on this LCT.

h) 'Open Ridgeland' LCT

This LCT extends over the hills to the west of Loch Lomond, around Glen Fruin and along the Rosneath Peninsula and has a medium sensitivity to the development. The ES assesses that the wind farm will be visible from east facing slopes around Glen Fruin and Shantron Muir. It concludes that the wind farm will be seen as a feature on the hills beyond the Vale of Leven and will not alter the character of the LCT as it will only have a minor adverse impact.

This LCT will be at least 8km from the site and due to the relationship with the proposed wind farm location, it is considered that there will be a minor adverse impact on this LCT.

i) 'Lowland River Valleys, Rugged Upland Farmland, Parallel Ridges, Lowland Hills, Glen Sides, Hills and Lowland Plateau' LCTs

The wind farm will be visible from these LCTs although it is more likely to be from greater distances of 8km or more. These LCTs all have either a medium or high sensitivity to the development and the ES concludes that from these LCTs, there will be a low magnitude of change and only minor adverse impacts.

Overall, it is considered that due to the distance and relationship with the proposed wind farm site, there will be minor adverse impacts on these LCTs.

j) 'Floodplain & Upland Glen' LCTs

These LCTs will be at least 9km from the development and an imperceptible magnitude of change is predicted by the ES. The Floodplain LCT has a low level of sensitivity to the proposal whilst the Upland Glen LCT has a high level of sensitivity to the proposal. Consequently, the adverse impacts of the development are predicted to be negligible.

Conclusion

Of the 18 LCTs which are identified within the ES, ten are considered to have a high sensitivity to the proposed wind farm. It should be noted that 15 of the LCTs will be adversely affected by the proposal, including the Kilpatrick Hills

which will suffer from major adverse impacts. Further significant adverse impacts are predicted for Rolling Farmland with Estates, Loch Shore Fringes and Loch Lomond Islands LCTs. Due to the sensitivity of the LCTs to the proposed development and the adverse impacts that are anticipated, it is considered that overall, the proposal will have an unacceptable impact on the landscape.